



# Protective factors for violent and sexual offenders: Retrospective results with the SAPROF

Michiel de Vries Robbé & Vivienne de Vogel, Van der Hoeven Kliniek, Utrecht, The Netherlands



## The SAPROF

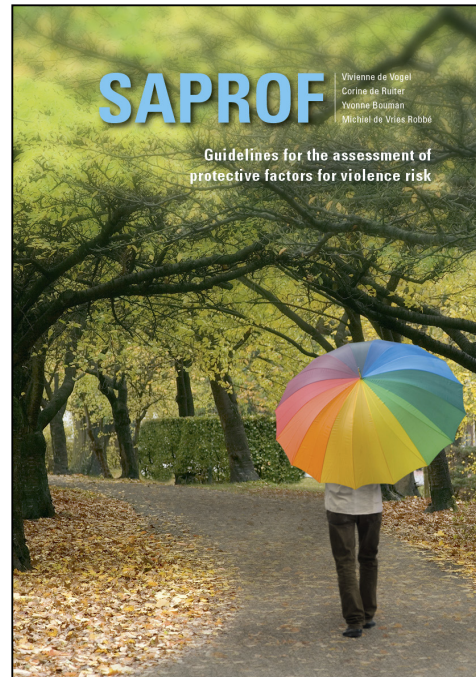
The Structured Assessment of PROtective Factors for violence risk (SAPROF) is a checklist for the assessment of **protective factors** for violent behavior. The SAPROF was developed as a positive, dynamic and treatment focused assessment tool, intended to complement and counterbalance commonly used risk assessment instruments in forensic psychiatry. Following the SPJ approach, the SAPROF is designed to be used in combination with other SPJ instruments like the HCR-20.

### Advantages

The addition of protective factors creates a more balanced risk assessment for future violence risk, enabling a more positive approach to (sexual) violence prevention. The SAPROF aims to contribute to an increasingly accurate and well-rounded assessment of risk for future violent behavior. Moreover, the dynamic positive approach of protective factors aims to create new opportunities for effective and achievable treatment interventions.

### Translations

The SAPROF is now available in Dutch (2007), English (2009), German (2010) and Italian (2010). Spanish, French, Swedish, Norwegian, Portuguese, Danish & Russian translations are expected in 2011.



## The SAPROF

### Internal factors

1. Intelligence
2. Secure attachment childhood
3. Empathy
4. Coping
5. Self-control

### External factors

13. Social network
14. Intimate relationship
15. Professional care
16. Living circumstances
17. Supervision

### Motivational factors

6. Work
7. Leisure activities
8. Financial management
9. Motivation for treatment
10. Attitudes towards authority
11. Life goals
12. Medication

### Final Protection Judgment SAPROF

*low, moderate, high*

### Integrative Final Risk Judgment HCR-20/SAPROF

*low, moderate, high*

## Results: Predictive validity

Follow-up (N=188)	1 year	3 year	11 year (M)
Total score SAPROF	.85**	.75**	.73**
Total score HCR-20	.84**	.73**	.64**
Total HCR-20 – Total SAPROF	.87**	.76**	.70**
Final Protection Judgment	.80**	.72**	.66**
Integrative Final Risk Judgment	.79**	.67**	.66**

Predictive validity (AUC-values) for violent reconvictions of post-treatment ratings for discharged offenders, \*\* =  $p < .01$ .

Results showed **good predictive validities** for violent reconvictions with short- as well as long-term follow-up for the SAPROF and the combined HCR-SAPROF. These results were equally good for violent offenders as for sexual offenders. Overall, the **combination of HCR-SAPROF was the best predictor** for violent recidivism and provided significantly better predictions than the HCR-20 alone. Most SAPROF factors showed significant individual predictive validity. The items *Self-control, Work, Attitudes towards authority, Coping* and *Life goals* were the best predicting factors.

## The present study

This study presents retrospective findings on the predictive validity and changeability of the protective factors in the SAPROF for a sample of 188 male discharged offenders. The study was carried out at the Van der Hoeven Kliniek in The Netherlands, a forensic psychiatric hospital. Files were collected on 105 violent and 83 sexual offenders. The SAPROF, the HCR-20 and the PCL-R were scored for all offenders at discharge from inpatient forensic psychiatric treatment. Follow-up data retrieved from criminal records concerned new convictions for violent offenses after treatment.

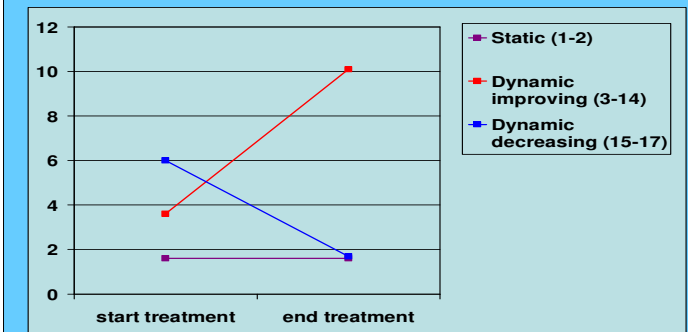
### Changes during treatment

For 120 cases two assessments were carried out: an initial rating at the start of treatment and a discharge rating at the end of treatment (on average 5.5 years later). For the purpose of measuring change, the 17 SAPROF items were divided into *Static* (1-2), *Dynamic improving* (3-14) and *Dynamic decreasing* (15-17) items, according to their expected change during treatment.

### Interrater reliability

Interrater reliabilities were calculated for 40 cases of the violent offender group as well as for 30 cases of the sexual offender group. ICC's for the total scores and the Final Protection Judgments were .88 / .85 for the violent offenders and .85 / .73 for the sexual offenders.

## Results: Changeability of the SAPROF items



Changes in SAPROF item scores during treatment (N=120).

The SAPROF *Dynamic improving* items demonstrated to **improve significantly during treatment**, while the external *Dynamic decreasing* items declined during treatment. Moreover, offenders who changed the most on their *Dynamic improving* protective factors during treatment, recidivated the least after discharge. This effect was found for **violent as well as sexual offenders**.